

The Relation between Enforcement and Tolerance in Religion in an Islamic Government Based on Shia Narrations

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Abstract

In Shia tradition, there are two seemingly contradictory sets of narrations: those that advocate applying force in Islamic governance and those that emphasize religious tolerance. This research aims to explore the relationship between these two categories of narrations. Using a descriptive-analytical approach and referring to library resources, the study first presents and categorizes both sets of narrations in detail. Narrations advocating the use of force in Islamic governance are classified into three areas: belief, behavior, and defense. Traditions of religious tolerance are also categorized into two groups: tolerance in Islamic governance and general tolerance in religion. In evaluating the narrations based on the criteria of classical scholars for assessing narrations, it is found that there is Quranic evidence for both sets of narrations, which confirms the validity of the content of both categories. Therefore, a way to reconcile the narrations must be found. It seems that considering the human capacity, which is emphasized in the narrations of tolerance, is the key to reconciling these two sets of narrations and determines the scope of the use of force in Islamic governance.

Keywords: enforcement; tolerance; Islamic government; collection of narrations.

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